

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Thursday, September 25, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. – Room C450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Michael T. Morley
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Vice Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. Sen. Dayton, Sen. Jones, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Moss were excused from attending the meeting.

Sen. Stephenson turned the chair over to Rep. Hughes.

2. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Student Achievement Testing Exceptions"

Sen. Stephenson distributed and reviewed 2008 Second Special Session draft legislation, "Student Achievement Testing Exceptions." He noted the bill allows the State Board of Education to exempt a school district or charter school from testing requirements under the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) under certain circumstances.

State Superintendent Patti Harrington explained that the bill would allow school districts that have implemented computer-based adaptive testing to be exempt from administering U-PASS tests.

Mr. Brent Thorne, Superintendent, and Mr. Myron Mickelsen, Assistant Superintendent, Sevier School District, spoke in support of the draft legislation and computer-based adaptive testing.

Sen. Stephenson asked Supt. Harrington what action would be needed to exempt school districts from federal No Child Left Behind requirements. Supt. Harrington indicated that an exemption letter has been sent to the U.S. Department of Education asking for flexibility in implementing the federal requirements.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to adopt 2008 Second Special Session draft legislation, "Student Achievement Testing Exceptions," as a committee bill. The motion passed with Rep. Last and Rep. Urquhart voting in opposition. Sen. Hillyard was absent for the vote.

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3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard absent for the vote.

Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.